

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the indulgence of the body, I would ask that they would deem fit to reconsider the Final Reading vote on 157. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Barrett.

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President, and members. It would come as no surprise that I would rise in opposition to Senator Beutler's motion to reconsider our vote on LB 157. Senator Beutler has worked hard on this bill as others in this body, as have the trial attorneys. I don't believe...I think probably I worked as hard against this bill as any of the proponents have worked for the bill. It has been particularly troublesome to me, not only this year, but every year I have been a member of this body. I would suggest to Senator Beutler and to the members of the Legislature who are listening that there are many times when we don't have our full complement aboard when votes are cast on Final Reading. It should come as no surprise to anyone that we generally have two or three people absent or missing or not voting. If we would reconsider every vote taken on Final Reading because all members were not present, I am afraid we would never make any progress. So I certainly am in opposition, vigorous opposition to the reconsideration motion offered by Senator Beutler. There really isn't much need to discuss at this point the merits or demerits of the bill. It has been debated fully. I think everyone understands the bill. Everyone has taken a position on the bill. The votes are either there or they are not there, but again I would urge the body to vote no on the motion to reconsider. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hoagland, please.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: (No response.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Haberman. Thank you. You were the last one anyway so that closes debate. Senator Beutler, did you wish to close on the motion?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, we are all here now except for Lee Rupp and I think that we could have now a vote on the issue that involves all of the members of the Legislature, as it should be, and I hope you will not leave this bill a victim of an accident. I hope you will give it an opportunity, and as Senator Barrett